

invoking an edit mode for said active cell;  
identifying a list of completed data items from a search region within said spreadsheet comprising a table of contiguous data-containing cells encompassing said active cell and bordered by empty cells;  
defining a partial data entry within said active cell;  
identifying a matching completed data item from within said list of completed data items that corresponds to said partial data entry;  
displaying said matching completed data item as a suggested completion for said partial data entry;  
receiving an acceptance command in association with said suggested completion; and  
in response to said acceptance command, storing said partial data entry with said suggested completion within the active cell.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said command is a user response and said operating step further comprises the steps of:

if said response is a rejection of said suggested completion, displaying said partial data entry; and

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises the steps of:

filtering said associated list of completed data items to generate a filtered list; and

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said search region within said spreadsheet is positionally based on said active cell and said identifying step further comprises the step of selecting a block of contiguous cells, said block being coterminous with said active cell.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said block is confined to one of said rows of cells within said spreadsheet, said row containing said active cell.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein said filtering step further comprises the steps of:

removing surplus duplicated completed data items from said associated list of completed data items.

11. The method of claim 4, wherein each of said completed data items comprises formatting information, and said filtering step further comprises the step of removing said completed data items that do not comprise a specific formatting information.

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

in response to finding at least one said matching data item, equating said suggested completion to said matching data item.

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

- (a) selecting a set of K cells from said search region, said set excluding cells contained in said sub-list;
- (b) filtering surplus duplicated completed data items from said set of K cells to generate a filtered set;

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enabling an active cell to receive said partial data entry, said active cell being selected from a plurality of cells in response to placing a display item into a region occupied by said active cell;

identifying a list of completed data items from a search region within a spreadsheet comprising a table of contiguous data-containing cells encompassing said active cell and bordered by empty cells;

searching said list of completed data items to identify said suggested completion comprising said partial data entry; and

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein said computer program further performs the steps of:

if said response contains a modified partial data item,  
searching said list to identify a suggested completion  
comprising said modified partial data item;

if said response is a command to exit said edit mode,  
clearing said active cell.

retrieving a plurality of completed data items from a block of contiguous cells, said block being coterminous with said active cell, and forming said list of completed data items;

sorting said list of completed data items alphabetically, said completed data items containing at least one glyph from a set of glyphs having an alphabetical relationship.

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;  
searching said list of completed data items for at least one  
matching data item corresponding to said mask;

defer identifying said suggested completion if more than one of said matching data items is found; and

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein said displaying step further comprises the step of replacing said partial data entry in said active cell with said suggested completion.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising the step of operating on said suggested completion in accordance with said acceptance command to per-

33. A computer system for completing a data entry for an active cell of a spreadsheet, comprising:

a processing unit;  
a memory storage device;  
an input device coupled to said processing unit for receiving data;

a program module, stored in said memory storage device for providing instructions to said processing unit;

enable an active cell to accept a partial data entry, said  
active cell being selected from a plurality of cells in  
response to moving a display item into a region  
occupied by said active cell;

receive a partial data entry from said input device;  
display said partial entry within said active cell on said  
pixel-based display device;

in response to identifying said suggested completion,  
display said suggested completion within said active  
cell on said pixel-based display device.

10 receive a response pertinent to said suggested completion;  
if said response is an acceptance of said suggested  
completion, store said suggested completion in said  
active cell as said data entry;

if said response contains a modified partial data item,  
search said list to identify a suggested completion  
comprising said modified partial data item;

if said response is a command to exit said edit mode, clear  
said active cell.

retrieving a plurality of completed data items from a block  
of contiguous cells, said block being coterminous with  
said active cell, and forming said list of completed data  
items:

10 sorting said list of completed data items alphabetically;  
said completed data items containing at least one glyph  
from a set of glyphs having an alphabetical relation-  
ship.

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

37. The computer system of claim 33, wherein said processing unit displays said suggested completion by

replacing said partial data entry in said active cell with said suggested completion.

38. The computer system of claim 33, wherein said response is an acceptance of said suggested completion and said processing unit operates on said suggested completion in accordance with said response by performing a case conversion, said case conversion comprising an adjustment of the case of said partial item to correspond to the case of said suggested completion.

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**SECRET**